

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has indicated that this application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. The Examiner has identified that species A is directed to printing before associating and species B is directed to printing after associating.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, to pursue the claims that read on species B, namely, Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-22. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-15, and 17-22 are generic. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the required election of species requirement as indicated in the present Office Action. Applicants respectfully contend that there will not be a serious burden placed on the Examiner if the election of species requirement is not required because only Claims 5 and 10 read on species A. In addition, Applicants contend that the search for prior art for the subject matter of Claim 3 (generic) would include a search of the prior art for both Claims 4 (species B) and 5 (species A). Similarly, Applicants contend that the search for prior art for the subject matter of Claim 8 (generic) would include a search of the prior art for both Claims 9 (species B) and 10 (species A). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the election of species requirement. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims of the non-elected species A of the application in one or more divisional patent applications if the election of species requirement is upheld.

The undersigned is available during normal business hours if a telephone conversation would be helpful to advance prosecution in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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